

II - Summary of Canadian Operations

Central Mediterranean Theatre

(a) AIR FORCE -

No. 417 (Fighter) Squadron, based at Bellaria, carried out 722 sorties during the month with a loss of one R.C.A.F. aircraft.

United Kingdom and Northwest Europe

(a) NAVY - Coastal Waters

H.M.C.S. "Iroquois" with four Home Fleet destroyers engaged in a successful surface strike off Josingfjord, Norway on the 3rd when an enemy convoy was severely damaged.

H.M.C.S. "Loch Alvie" and H.M.S. "Watchman" attacked and sank a U-boat off the Isle of Wight on the 6th.

Two R.C.N. motor torpedo boats were in action against four E-boats off Ostend on the 8th and inflicted damage before they retired under cover of smoke. Again on the 12th, in the Ostend area, two of our motor torpedo boats attacked four E-boats, two of which were considerably damaged; our boats escaped with superficial damage and three casualties.

R.C.N. minesweepers swept the approaches to Bordeaux in preparation for the bombardment of the area by a French fleet; a German armed trawler was captured during the course of these operations. Later in the month they again assisted French Naval forces in similar operations.

The R.C.N. again assisted in the escorting of shipping in U.K. coastal waters, and following the withdrawal of Escort Group No. 6 to Canada on the 18th, four Canadian frigate groups were still operating as support or striking forces against U-boats in British waters.

Mid Ocean

During the month 18 trade convoys crossed the North Atlantic with the loss of two merchant ships. Twelve convoys were escorted all the way across, and all were escorted in the western area, by Canadian warships. Nine trade convoys, eastbound from North American ports carried 5,427,917 tons of cargo to the United Kingdom,

(b) ARMY -

During April the First Canadian Army, operating on the left flank of the Second British Army, cleared northeast Holland of the enemy and sealed off the German occupation forces in the northwestern section. The operation may be broken into two phases - the first phase consisting of the initial breaking of the crust and sealing off of northwestern Holland; and the second phase, the rapid advance and clean-up of northeastern Holland and the advance into Germany to invest the Emden and Wilhelmshaven pockets.

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